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September 2012



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MFC News

Caring for the Trees and Forests of Mississippi Since 1926

WEYERHAEUSER PREFERS ATFS CERTIFIED WOOD

By Tom Martin, President
and CEO of American For-
est Foundation.

Considering one of the top concerns Tree Farmers have is the loss of markets for their American Tree Farm Certified wood, we are pleased that Weyerhaeuser, one of the world's largest forest products companies, has announced a supply chain preference for certified material sourced from the American Tree Farm System. For more than 89,000 family forest owners sustainably managing 27 million acres of forestland in America, the Weyerhaeuser preference for their certified wood can make a real difference in the viability of the Tree Farms and the economic health of rural communities.

"Weyerhaeuser's announcement is just what certified Tree Farmers have been waiting for," said Tom Martin, President and CEO of the American Forest Foundation.

"Healthy forests need healthy markets because protecting your trees against pests, pathogens and catastrophic fire can be expensive. These landowners are hardworking people who want to keep their forests, as forests, and keep them in their family.

The preference for ATFS wood will be implemented at Weyerhaeuser through a number of measures, including:

- **Incentives** – Such as maintaining a priority market for Tree Farm certified material, especially when suppliers are put on quotas.
- **Procurement decisions** – Where a Vendor Management Plan is used (which scores wood suppliers on a number of metrics) Tree Farm certification will be added as a positive attribute.
- **Policy**– Declaring support for Tree Farm in the company's Wood Procurement Policy

and tracking Tree Farm wood use.

- **Support expansion of the American Tree Farm System**– Offering landowner assistance to encourage Tree Farm certification and management to ATFS Standards of Sustainability.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Patriot Day
September 11,
2012

The Mississippi Forestry Commission provides equal employment opportunities and services to all individuals regardless of disability, race, age, religion, color, gender, national origin, or political affiliation.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

Have a safe Labor Day



Labor Day
Holiday

Hope you have a
great Labor Day
Holiday.



Newsletter Deadlines

All submissions are welcome. Photographs are encouraged (although space limitations August curtail inclusion). Items must be received by the **10th of the month** to be included in the next month's issue. E-mail submissions (in *Microsoft Word*) and photos to

lharris@mfc.state.ms.us

or mail to:

Lisa A. Harris

Mississippi Forestry Commission

822 SCR 115 S

Raleigh, MS 39153

YOUTH FORESTRY FIELD DAY AT OZIER'S TREE FARM



Picture taken by Mary Minor, ex-MSU Extension Service employee from Marshall Co.



An estimated 83 high school students attended the Forestry Field Day on Wednesday May 9. Students were from Byhalia and Potts Camp communities.

This is an annual event sponsored by the local CFA. Mr. Buck Hobbs was present and assisting with the event. Thank you to Service Forester Justin Dewberry and his staff for their help.

TREE KNOWLEDGE - WHO AM I?



My leaves are simple, alternate and deciduous. They range in size from 3.0" to 5.5" long and are 2.0" to 3.0" wide. Their margin is finely glandular and dentately toothed with a long-tapered apex. Their base is obliquely heart-shaped or flattened. They are dark green and lighter green on the underside. Their surface is glabrous above, covered with thick, white to pale-brown woolly hairs below.

My twigs are slender and reddish brown or yellowish brown in color. Their surface is zigzag branching, with half-round to crescent-shaped leaf scars.

My terminal bud is absent, but my lateral buds are 0.25" long. They are dark red to

green in color and hairy at the margin.

My fruit is a nutlet. The nutlet is leathery to woody, with woolly hairs. It is ellipsoidal in shape and rusty brown in color.

My flower is monoecious, perfect, in 10 to 20 flowered pubescent corymbs. They are 4.0" to 6.0" long and. The flower are 5 petals and yellow in color.

My bark is gray-green and smooth when young, dark gray to gray-brown and deeply furrowed into narrow scaly ridges as I get older.

I form a single stem and grow to 90'. I have a moderate life span of around 50 years. I am shade tolerant, but have little to no tolerances for drought and fire.

I like moist, well-drained, gentle slopes in mixed hardwood forests. I am rare on the coastal plains.

I prefer a soil pH of 5.7 to 7.2 and love a medium soil texture.

I range from southwestern Pennsylvania; west into southern Ohio, Indiana and Illinois to Missouri; south to northern Arkansas; east to northwestern Florida and

Georgia; and north to Maryland. I am most common in the mixed forests of the Cumberland Plateau, where I am second only to sugar maple in frequency. In Mississippi, I am found in Tishomingo, Washington and Forrest Counties according to the NRCS Plants Database.

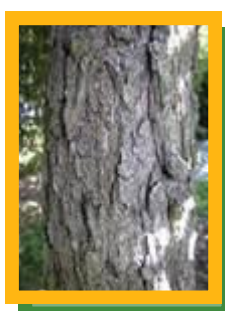
I am the preferred browse for white-tailed deer; my flowers are visited by honeybees for nectar. I am used by cavity-nesting animals including wood ducks, pileated woodpeckers and other birds and small mammals.

My wood is soft and light and valued for hand carving, cooperage, boxes, veneer, excelsior and pulp. My fibrous inner bark has been used as a source of fiber for rope, mats, fish nets and woven baskets.

I am a describable ornamental tree with fragrant, cream colored flower in May and June. My flower are especially attractive to bees. Honey from my flowers is considered a delicacy by beekeepers and hone connoisseurs.

The Native Americans made thread and tangle-free ropes from my inner bark and stitched wounds with the thread. The Iroquois used my sapwood to carve elaborate masks.

Who Am I?



September's Birthdays



Rebekah Olander -1
George Davis -2
Donald Watson -2
Russell Jones -3
RC Bownes -4
William Wilson -4
Allen Nunley -5
Matilda Fleming -6
Dudley Jones -8
Lynn Conley -10
James Parker -11
John Rowley -13
John Jones -14
Stanley Parker -14
Christopher Ivey -15
Troy McCluskey -15
Mitchell Whatley -15
Cheryl Arnold -16
Jimmie Gaines -16
Matthew Reed -16
Kevin Melton -18
Gerald Farmer -19
Russell Garrett -19
David Harper -19
Ronald Adcock -22
Janice Baker -22
Allen Spencer -22
Lacie Wilkerson -22
Steven Williams -22
Ruth Dollar -23
Leslie Blackwell -24
Danny Loftin -24
Tommy Rutland -25
Jimmy Fulton -27
Phillip South -27
Michael Street -28
Robbin Dickerson -29
Timothy Hinton -29



Tree Knowledge - Who Am I? for June 2012 was the Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica* Marsh.) Check out page 223 in the Mississippi Trees book.

TRI-STATE SPORTSMAN'S BONANZA 2012



- ☺ Thomas Faye, Forest Ranger, Harrison County, Southeast District
- ☺ Patrick Parker, Forest Ranger, Smith County, South Central District
- ☺ Lee McCollough, Forest Ranger, Clarke County, South Central District



Moving Up and/ or Around

- ☺ Berry Thomas, from Hazardous Mitigation Grant Program to Forestry Technician, Clarke County .
- ☺ Todd Matthews, from Service Forester to Urban Forestry Coordinator.

SAVE THE DATE

**Mississippi State Fair
October 3 to October
14, 2012**



By George Byrd, MFC Public Outreach Forester, Northern Region.

The 2012 Tri-State Sportsman's Bonanza was held at the Tupelo Furniture Market building in late July. The wildlife promotion event attracted approximately 10,000 people during its two day run. The MFC had the Firewise display with

Firewise handouts for adults and Smokey Bear items promoting the fall 2012 wildfire prevention campaign. Forest Management items were distributed as well in front of the new Water Quality display with a Tree Farm sign on display.

I was assisted by the Lee County personnel (Greg Hall, Brandon McDaniel, Jeremy Green,

and Larry Stephens) all weekend. Also from South Mississippi, Meacham Harlow, Southern Public Outreach Officer assisted Saturday afternoon and Sunday until closing.

We met many forest landowners and gave them information on their forestry questions and provided Service For-

(Continued on page 5)

BENEFIT ENROLLMENT SCHEDULE 2013

By Jan Baker, MFC Personnel Officer

If you are planning to make changes to your benefit options, please be sure to bring the social security number and birth date with you for any dependents you are planning to cover.

This will be your opportunity to meet with the representatives of each of our supplemental benefit plans.

Please do not hesitate to sit down with any one of them, they will be more than happy to take all the time needed to answer your questions/concerns or advise of any changes to existing coverage options.

All sessions begin at 9:00 a.m. except the Capital District which begins at 1:30 p.m.

Employees may attend any session they desire. For those em-

ployees attending sessions outside of their normal assigned work area, please make every attempt to get there as early as possible. Once we have seen all the employees assigned to the specific location site, we will be leaving.

For additional information, contact Jan Baker at (601) 359-2811 or jbaker@mfc.state.ms.us.

BENEFITS ENROLLMENT SCHEDULE 2013*

Location	Date	Time
State Office	Monday, September 24, 2012	9:00 - 12:00
Capital District	Monday, September 24, 2012	1:30 - 4:00 p.m.
Northeast District	Tuesday, September 25, 2012	9:00 a.m.
Northwest District	Wednesday, September 26, 2012	9:00 a.m.
East Central District	Thursday, September 27, 2012	9:00 a.m.
South Central District	Tuesday, October 2, 2012	9:00 a.m.
Southeast District	Wednesday, October 3, 2012	9:00 a.m.
Southwest District	Thursday, October 4, 2012	9:00 a.m.

* Plan Year (January 1 to December 31, 2013)

TRI-STATE SPORTSMAN'S BONANZA 2012

(Continued from page 4)

ester's contact information for the landowners to notify their local county MFC Forester for additional assistance. We had landowners as far at Attala County and some professional foresters stopped by as well. Even

'old' MFC employees-Johnny Fowler, Crew Chief from Webster County visited our booth. Teachers were given a business card from me if they would like more materials or a 2012-13 forestry program.

I truly appreci-

ate the team effort from Lee County staff, NED Shop and Ms. Harlow for assisting me this weekend. It was a successful public outreach event for the MS Forestry Commission.



MISSISSIPPI WILDLAND FIRE ACADEMY

Will be held between October 15-26, 2012 at Southern Regional Fire Training Center in Pearl, Mississippi.

Contact Jeff Ware, State Safety and Training Coordinator at (662)842-5312 or e-mail: jware@mfc.state.ms.us for more information. Check out this link: http://www.mfc.ms.gov/pdf/SRFTC/2012_Wildland_Fire_Academy_Brochure.pdf for Wildland fire Academy 2012 Brochure.

Policies & Procedures

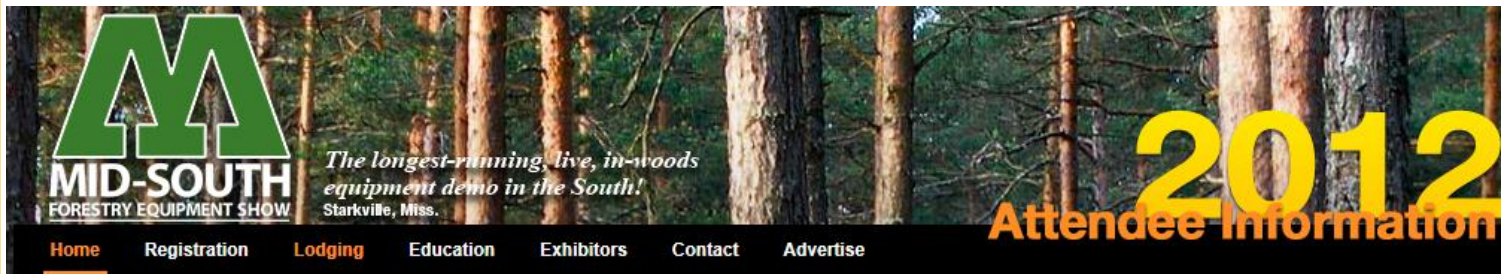
From Russell D. Jones, MFC

Greetings!

On behalf of the program manager, a new policy update has been added to the Memorandums and Policy page on our web site. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the policy update. As always, the policies are considered effective immediately.

The new documents are: **Overtime/Comp-Time Policy**, and a **New Crew Assistance System F.A.Q.**

To get to our Memorandums and Policy page navigate to our main web-site, Click "Employee Section". Login via the "MFC Applications and Employee Page", and click the "Interoffice Memos and Policies" link on the left.



Momentum for the two-day, family-friendly Mid-South Forestry Equipment Show, which opens October 5 near Starkville, Miss., continues to increase. Additional exhibitors are signing up; the logger-forester-landowner continuing education program has been set; and plans for a special dedication service honoring the show's founder are firming up, according to Misty Booth, Show Manager.

More than 40 exhibitors, representing at least 50 brands of products, supplies and services, have already signed up for the popular biennial event, which ranks as the nation's longest running live show for logging equipment and related supplies and services. (Click on Exhibitors in the bar and scroll to Directory to view the list, updated periodically.) Booth expects exhibitor participation will meet or exceed the 2010 show's total of 60.

She also expects Mid-South to once again attract a strong turnout, estimated at 5,600 in 2010. The show's continuing education program is one reason for the consistently good attendance. This year seven on-site tent sessions will include topics ranging from logging issues to credit management to forestry ethics. Field presentations include operator select thinning, pine genetics and hardwood management, among others. The programs will be presented on both Friday and Saturday. Loggers can earn up to 15 hours of CE credit in Category 1 and up to 6 hours of credit in Category 2. Foresters are offered 12.5 hours of SAF-CFE credit by attending specified lectures. All CE sessions are included in the modest show admission fee—\$10 for preregistration on line (available late summer) or \$15 at the gate. (Click on Education in the bar for the class schedule and speaker info.)

A special event this year is a ceremony honoring Charles E. Burkhardt, who founded the Mid-South Forestry Equipment Show in 1983 and helped develop it into a major regional forestry venue. Burkhardt served as the Mid-South show manager and was Forest Supervisor at Mississippi State University for 30 years. He died in September 2011 from health complications.

On Saturday night the Mississippi Loggers Association will stage its awards banquet on the show site. Preregistration is mandatory. Call the MLA office—601-776-5754—to make arrangements.

Booth reports that the show's children's activities will again be expansive, and for the big folks, the in-house skidder contest offers hundreds in cash for the top three winners.



Attendee Registration

Pre-Registration [Click Here](#)

For additional information,
call: (800) 669-5613



Safety First . . .

PRACTICE SAFE DRIVING

Ted Gordon – Risk Mgmt. / Loss Control Mgr. MAFES – MSU-ES

Excerpts: www.Gemplers.com/alert/safedriving, AMA/National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Did you know that?

- Every 12 minutes someone dies in a motor vehicle crash.
- Every 10 seconds an injury occurs.
- Every 5 seconds a crash occurs.

Many of these accidents happen during the work day or going to and from work. Employers bear the cost of all jobs directly related to on-the-job accidents and off-the-job as well. Increased traffic and congestion on our country's highways waste significant amounts of time and money in the form of lost productivity on the farm and also promotes risky driving behavior. According to the Safety Exchange, traffic deaths are falling and seatbelt use is climbing. Following are some statistics that I believe are worth sharing. These are through 2008:

- 37,313 – The number of people killed in motor vehicle accidents – the lowest since 1961 (36,285) and a 9% decline since 2007 (41,059)
- 1.28 – The number of fatalities per 100 million miles traveled, the lowest since 2007 (1.36).

We must continually educate ourselves about the dangers that are lurking out there. As we have all seen, a split second can cause serious physi-

cal harm.

The Do's and Don'ts

- **Use Seatbelts-** In most cases this is the law for highway vehicles. Statistics have proven that injuries and lives can be saved when they are used on the farm and on utility vehicles. The National Safety Council (NSC) has figures that state that each year approximately 1000 lives are saved and 325,000 serious injuries are prevented by using seatbelts.
- **Don't Drive Distracted-** 25 to 30% of all traffic accidents are caused by driving distractions. Busy schedules and roadway delays make it hard to spend time at home. More time on the road means less time at home; it should behoove us to watch and drive carefully.
- **Don't Drive under the Influence of Alcohol-** Alcohol is involved in 40% of fatal vehicle crashes. This equates to 1 alcohol-related accident every 30 minutes. Alcohol, prescription drugs, and illegal drugs can affect a person's ability to drive safely. It causes decreased concentration, coordination and reaction time. Alcohol is a contributing factor in 39% of all work-related vehicle crashes.
- **Don't Drive Aggressively-** Heavy traffic while traveling to and from work is very frustrating. Aggressive driving comes in a variety of ways, some of which we are all familiar with. If we don't remain focused on our driving and the other person as well, a serious accident could occur. I know that it's hard, but if this occurs we should "lay-back" and let the "joker" in, no matter how hard it is to do this.
- **Don't Drive When tired-** Fatigued or drowsiness driving may be involved in more than 100,000 crashes each year, resulting in 40,000 injuries and 1,550 deaths. These statistics are a tip of the iceberg, as so many of these incidents aren't reported. It is so important to be well rested, sober, alert and focused on the road so that we can defend ourselves and against those who aren't prepared.
- **Train Young Drivers-** 16 to 20 year olds are presenting a significant highway safety problem. Traffic crashes are the leading cause of fatalities for teens. Historically, this is the age group that has the lowest seatbelt use rate and is the most likely to engage in risky driving with behavior that includes alcohol, speeding, drug-impaired and drowsiness. It is most important for employees with young drivers to actively promote safe driving practices.

Tips for Safe Driving -

- **Drive the speed limit-** Don't drive too fast or too slow. It's dangerous to drive too fast.
- **Be alert!** Pay attention to traffic at all times.
- **Keep enough distance between you and the car in front of you.** The old adage was 1 car length for each 10

miles per hour. At traffic lights, allow enough room between you and the vehicle in front of you that you can see the back tires of that vehicle.

- **Check your blind spot when changing lanes.** A hint that I use is 2 small convex adhesive mirrors that stick on your rear view mirrors. I stick them on the bottom, right inside corner of each mirror. The cost is about \$3.75 for the two. They turn 3600, so they are fully adjustable.

Car Care Tips-

- Keep plenty of gas in the tank (for continuous use and security).
- Keep windshield clean and clear.
- Keep tissues in the car for window cleaning (when necessary).

Motor vehicle crashes costs employers \$60 billion annually in medical care, legal expenses, property damages and lost productivity. These crashes also drive up the cost of workers' compensation, social security and health insurance. All of these factors above make it imperative that employers should know these traits and publicize it daily to all their employees, young and experienced alike.



First Time, Every Time